

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01
ACDA-07 IGA-02 IO-13 XMB-02 /102 W
-----046483 251156Z /41

R 250602Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 481
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MANILA
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12978

USLO PEKING FOR SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: JA, US, ASEAN
SUBJECT: JAPANESE BRIEFING ON FUKUDA VISITS TO ASEAN CAPITALS
AND BURMA

REF: (A) TOKYO 12936 (NOTAL), (B) TOKYO 12977

SUMMARY. FUKUDA VISITS TO ASEAN CAPITALS AND RANGOON
COVERED SAME AREAS AS KUALA LUMPUR SUMMIT BUT MOVED ON
TO REQUESTS FOR SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN JAPANESE
BILATERAL AID. NO PROMISES BEYOND CONTINUATION OF
PRESENT AID LEVELS WERE MADE. JAPANESE FOUND REVIVED
HUNGER FOR JAPANESE INVESTMENT AND SEE THIS AS PRINCIPAL
REASON FUKUDA SO MUCH BETTER RECEIVED THAN TANAKA IN
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1974. END SUMMARY.

1. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CALLED IN DCM AUGUST 24
TO BRIEF US ON RESULTS OF FUKUDA VISIT TO FIVE ASEAN
CAPITALS AND RANGOON. HE SAID, AS AT KUALA LUMPUR
SUMMIT, FUKUDA HAD DOMINATED DISCUSSIONS IN SOLO
PERFORMANCE. IN EACH COUNTRY SAME TOPICS HAD BEEN

RAISED AS AT SUMMIT, INDOCHINA, ECONOMIC COOPERATION,
TRADE AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE.

2. IN BANGKOK THANIN REPEATED HIS CONCERN RE VIETNAM
BUT HAD AGAIN APPEARED TO BE REASSURED BY JAPANESE
INCLINATION TO PROCEED SLOWLY. THAI HAD STRESSED NEED
FOR EXPANDED JAPANESE CREDITS. THEY HAD NOTED
FOREIGN EXCHANGE GAP OF \$800 MILLION PER YEAR UNDER
FIVE-YEAR PLAN AND THEIR WISH TO HAVE JAPAN COVER AT
LEAST ONE-THIRD OF GAP. HE SAID THAI GAVE IMPRESSION
OF HAVING FEW CONCRETE IDEAS ABOUT PROJECTS BUT SEEMED
TO STRESS WATER DEVELOPMENT TO ASSIST IN HYDROELECTRIC
POWER GENERATING AND IRRIGATION. YOSHINO SAID HE HAD
BEEN SURPRISED AT FORTHRIGHT WAY IN WHICH THE KING
SPOKE UP IN FAVOR OF HIGHER PRIORITY TO AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT OVER INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

3. CONVERSATIONS IN RANGOON WERE LARGELY DEVOTED TO
PHILOSOPHIZING BY NEW WIN. YOSHINO SAID HE DOES NOT
EXPECT THAT BURMA WILL OPEN UP MUCH UNDER NE WIN.

4. IN JAKARTA, JAPANESE FOUND SUHARTO QUITE WORRIED
ABOUT FOOD SHORTAGE DUE TO DROUGHTS AND THAT 1.5 MILLION
TONS SHORTAGE MIGHT BE IN PROSPECT. INDONESIANS
ASKED FUKUDA FOR DOUBLING OF AID AMOUNTS THAT NOW
FINANCE PURCHASE OF THAI RICE.
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5. IN SINGAPORE FUKUDA FOUND LEE KWAN YU SPIRITED
AND INTERESTING CONVERSATIONALIST. HE APPARENTLY WAS
QUITE CRITICAL OF INDONESIAN ATTITUDES TOWARD ASEAN
NOTING THAT OF 1,000 ITEMS PROPOSED FOR INCLUSION
FOR ASEAN FREE TRADE AREA ONLY 70 HAD BEEN ACCEPTED,
LARGELY BECAUSE OF INDONESIAN OPPOSITION.

6. IN MANILA MARCOS HAD PRESSED FOR DOUBLING OF
JAPANESE AID FOR PROJECTS TO BUILD HOSPITALS AND
SERVE HUMAN NEEDS.

7. IN ALL CASES JAPAN HAD TURNED ASIDE REQUESTS FOR
ADDITIONAL BILATERAL AID AND HAD PROMISED ONLY TO
CONTINUE PRESENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

8. DCM ASKED YOSHINO WHY HE FELT FUKUDA'S TRIP HAD
BEEN NOTABLY SO MUCH MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN TANAKA
VISIT OF 1974. YOSHINO REPLIED THAT BASIS PROBABLY
LAY IN CHANGED ECONOMIC SITUATION. AT TIME OF TANAKA
VISIT JAPANESE INVESTMENT SEEMED TO BE OVERWHELMING
NATIONAL EFFORTS BUT NOW AFTER THREE YEARS OF RECESSION

ASEAN COUNTRIES ARE HUNGRY FOR JAPANESE INVESTMENT.
IN THAILAND, FOR EXAMPLE, JAPAN'S INVESTMENT IN 1976
HAD BEEN ONLY TEN PERCENT OF WHAT IT HAD BEEN THE
YEAR BEFORE AND THAI ARE ASKING FOR MAJOR STEP UP.
HE SAID FUKUDA HAD URGED THAI TO FACILITATE ENTRY OF
JAPANESE INVESTMENT AND RELAX INTERNAL CONTROLS ON
INVESTORS ACTIVITIES.

9. DCM ASKED WHETHER YOSHINO HAD HEARD EXPRESSIONS
OF CONCERN ABOUT "U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM ASIA." YOSHINO
SAID SUBJECT WAS RARELY RAISED DIRECTLY BUT THAT HE
FELT IT WAS AT THE BACK OF EVERYONE'S MIND AND THAT
THIS WAS ONE REASON JAPANESE INVESTMENT WAS NOW MORE
WELCOME.
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MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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